

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A security system comprising:  
an information management system that manages information and an encryption support system that supports encryption of the information and in network communication with the information management system,  
the encryption support system including an encryption rule storing portion that stores rule information that indicates an encryption rule for each secret level, and  
the information management system including a classification secret level storing portion that stores a classification of the information in connection with a secret level for each classification as a secret level classification of information,  
the encryption support system further including an encryption data transmitting portion that transmits encryption data that is necessary for encrypting the information in accordance with the encryption rule for a secret level over the network to the information management system,  
the information management system further including:  
an encryption data receiving portion that receives the encryption data over the network from the encryption support system,  
an encryption portion that specifies the secret level classification of the information and encrypts the information by using the received encryption data for the encryption rule of the specified secret level classification of the information,  
an information storing portion that stores the encrypted information, and  
a process information transmitting portion that transmits process information over the network to the encryption support system, the process information indicating an encryption process performed for the specified secret level classification of the information by the encrypting portion, and  
the encryption support system further including:  
a process information receiving portion that receives the process information;

~~which indicates an encryption process performed by the information management system, over the network from the information management system,~~

~~a monitoring portion that monitors by confirming whether the information management system encrypted the information in accordance with the encryption rule of the specified secret level classification of the information, based upon the process information received over the network from the information management system, and~~

~~a warning portion that warns the information management system over the network, if the monitoring portion has determined that the information is not encrypted in accordance with the encryption rule, and~~

~~the information management system including~~

~~—— an encryption data receiving portion that receives the encryption data over the network from the encryption support system,~~

~~—— a classification secret level storing portion that stores classification of the information in connection with a secret level for each classification,~~

~~—— an encrypting portion that specifies the classification of the information and encrypts the information by using the received encryption data of the secret level for the specified classification,~~

~~an information storing portion that stores the encrypted information, and~~

~~—— a process information transmitting portion that transmits the process information over the network to the encryption support system.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the rule information indicates, as the encryption rule, a rule about cryptography and a valid term of an encryption key for encrypting the information,

if a period from the encryption process of the information to the present time exceeds the valid term for the encryption rule of the secret level for the classification of the information, the warning portion warns the information management system,

if the cryptography of the encryption rule is changed, the encryption data transmitting portion transmits the encryption data for performing encryption in accordance with the changed cryptography to the information management system, and

the warning portion warns the information management system to encrypt the information in accordance with the changed cryptography.

3. (currently amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the

information management system includes

a classification secret level transmitting portion that transmits a secret level classification ~~secret level~~of information, which indicates ~~the~~a classification and ~~the~~a secret level for the classification, over the network to the encryption support system, and

the monitoring portion of the encryption support system monitors whether the information is encrypted in accordance with the encryption rule by the information management system based upon the process information received over the network from the information management system by comparing the received process information with the received ~~classification-secret level~~ classification of the information.

4. (Previously Presented) The security system according to claim 1, further comprising a valid term managing portion that manages a valid term of a certification for affixing an electronic signature to the information, wherein

the monitoring portion monitors whether or not it is necessary to affix a different electronic signature to the information in accordance with the valid term of the certification, and

the warning portion warns the information management system to affix the different electronic signature to the information if it is decided that it is necessary to affix the different electronic signature.

5. (Previously Presented) An information management system that manages information and receives support for encrypting information from an encryption support system in a network communication with the information management system, comprising:

a receiving portion that receives rule information, which indicates an encryption rule for each secret level and encryption data necessary for encrypting the information in accordance with the encryption rule, over the network from the encryption support system;

a classification secret level storing portion that stores classification of the information in connection with a secret level;

an encrypting portion that specifies the classification of the information and encrypts the information by using the received encryption data of the secret level for the specified classification;

an information storing portion that stores the encrypted information; and

an encryption process confirmation portion that confirms whether the encryption of the information was performed in accordance with the encryption rule by transmitting, over the network to the encryption support system, process information indicating the encryption process

performed by the encrypting portion and receives a confirmation result from the encryption support system.

6. (Previously Presented) An encryption support system that encrypts information and supports an information management system that manages information and is in communication over a network with the encryption support system, the encryption support system comprising:

- an encryption rule storing portion that stores rule information that indicates an encryption rule for each secret level;

- a transmitting portion that transmits encryption data that is necessary for encrypting the information in accordance with the encryption rule over the network to the information management system;

- a receiving portion that receives process information, which indicates the encryption process performed by the information management system, over the network from the information management system;

- a monitoring portion that monitors by confirming whether the information management system encrypted the information in accordance with the encryption rule based upon the process information received over the network from the information management system; and

- a warning portion that warns the information management system over the network, if the monitoring portion has determined that the information is not encrypted according to the encryption rule.

7. (Previously Presented) The encryption support system according to claim 6, further comprising a validity monitoring portion that monitors validity of an encryption rule that is used currently in accordance with vulnerability information about vulnerability of security received from a security information providing portion, wherein

- the transmitting portion transmits the encryption data for changing the encryption rule appropriately, to the information management system over the network, if decided that the encryption rule used currently has low validity.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage storing a program supporting encryption of information for an information management system that manages information, the program causing a computer, which is in a network communication with the information management system, to execute a process comprising:

transmitting an encryption rule for each secret level and encryption data that is necessary for encrypting the information in accordance with the encryption rule over the network to the information management system;

receiving process information, which indicates an encryption process performed by the information management system, over the network from the information management system;

monitoring by confirming whether the information management system encrypted the information in accordance with the encryption rule based upon the process information received over the network from the information management system; and

warning the information management system over the network, if the monitoring determines the information is not encrypted in accordance with the encryption rule.

9. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

transmitting, over a computer network, an encryption rule for a security level to an information management computer;

monitoring by confirming whether the information management system encrypted the data in accordance with the transmitted encryption rule for the security level; and

warning the information management system over the network, if the data is not encrypted in accordance with the encryption rule.

10. (cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A security system comprising an information management system that manages and encrypts information and an encryption support system that is in a network communication with the information management system and that supports encryption of the information performed by the information management system,

the encryption support system comprising:

an encryption rule storing portion that stores rule information that indicates an encryption rule for each encryption rank corresponding to an importance of information under an encryption policy,

an encryption data transmitting portion that transmits encryption data that is necessary for encrypting the information in accordance with the encryption rule over the network to the information management system,

a process information receiving portion that receives process information, which indicates an encryption process performed by the information management system, over the

network from the information management system,

a monitoring portion that monitors by confirming whether the information management system encrypted the information in accordance with the encryption rule based upon the process information received over the network from the information management system, and

a compliance portion that orders the information management system over the network, if the monitoring portion determines the information is not encrypted in accordance with the encryption rule, to encrypt the information in accordance with the encryption rule, and

the information management system comprising:

an encryption data receiving portion that receives the encryption data over the network from the encryption support system,

an encryption rank classification storing portion that stores classification of information in connection with an encryption rank for each classification,

an encrypting portion that specifies the classification of the information and encrypts the information by using the received encryption data of the encryption rank for the specified classification,

an information storing portion that stores the encrypted information, and

a process information transmitting portion that transmits the process information over the network to the encryption support system.